

Urmston Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

for the Year

OF HEALTH

1939

URMSTON :

"Telegraph" Printing Co. Ltd. Railway Road

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Urmston Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council: Councillor F. A. TAYLOR, J.P

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE. 1939 — 1940.

Councillor S. N. Penlington, *Chairman*.

Councillor R. P. Cartwright, *Vice-Chairman*.

Councillor J. H. Batten

Councillor H. Stewart

Councillor Mrs. B. E. Bull

Councillor Dr. R. H. Tootill

Councillor T. E. Collyer

Councillor F. E. Trigg

Councillor S. C. Shaw

Councillor W. Wroe

Medical Officer of Health

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—

* W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors—

* L. HALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

* N. HAWKINS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (appointed June 13th).

* Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Clerks in Public Health Department—

Chief Clerk - - G. W. Blake.

Asst. Clerk - - - M. Lambert.

Typist - - - Miss K. Nicklin
(resigned July 22nd).

Typist - Miss M. Worthington
(appointed August 8th).

URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table I—STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area : 4,797 acres.

Population. Registrar General's Estimate for 193933,530
Census 1931 (prior to amalgamation of districts) ... 9,284

Number of occupied houses 31st December, 193910,961

Number of occupied houses Census (prior to
amalgamation) 2,474

General Rate 1939-40, 13/8d.

Rateable Value at 31st December, 1939—£343,890.

Product of a penny rate—£1,397 4s. 3d.

Table II—VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{		Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 16.6.
		Legitimate	546	291	255	
		Illegitimate	12	9	3	
		Total	558	300	258	
Still Births	...	27	13	14	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 48.	
Deaths (all ages)	...	339	180	159	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, *10.1	
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and other puerperal causes—Nil.					Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births—Nil.	
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—						
All infants per 1,000 live births...		...	..	48		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					48	
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „					nil	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	45		
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1		
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	...	...	3		
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	2		
*1939 adjusted death-rate (compartbility factor 1.09) = 11 per 1,000						

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF URMSTON.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district. The report deals with the year ending 31st December, 1939, and the arrangement of sections is in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1961 of the 16th February, 1940, but the report has been condensed in accordance with the Ministry's further Circular of 19th July, 1940.

SECTION A.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Urmston Urban District lies 6 miles west-south-west of Manchester and consists of a large residential area, and a large industrial area comprising more than half the Trafford Park Estate.

Prior to amalgamation with the Davyhulme and Flixton portions of the Barton-upon-Irwell Rural District in April, 1933, the population of the Urmston Urban District was 9,284 (Census 1931); it is now estimated by the Registrar General to be 33,530.

The development of housing has been very rapid in the district during the past few years as the following figures show :—

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES.

31st December, 1935.....	8,477.
„ „ 1936.....	9,178..
„ „ 1937.....	9,818.
„ „ 1938.....	10,530.
„ „ 1939.....	10,961.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year under review, nor any causes of sickness or invalidity that have been especially noteworthy, except an increased incidence of diphtheria (referred to in Section F. of the report).

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.—The births registered numbered 558, representing a birth rate per thousand of the estimated population of 16.6. Still births numbered 27, three more than the previous year.

Year.	Total Births. Urmston U.D.	Birth rates per 1000 est'ted population.		
		Urmston U.D.	Administrative County	England and Wales.
1935.	454.	16.2.	13.31.	14.7.
1936.	465.	16.1.	13.63.	14.8.
1937.	529.	17.3.	13.81.	14.9.
1938.	533.	16.6.	14.14.	15.1.
1939.	558.	16.6.	—	15.0.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per thousand live births was 48, which, although in excess of the average for the district for the five years 1934—1938 of 42, is below the figure for England and Wales of 50 for the year 1939. The latter figure for the country as a whole is again a new low record.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1935—39.

Year	Urmston U.D.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1935.	33.	62.	57.
1936.	47.	58.	59.
1937.	58.	62.	58.
1938.	26.	55.	53.
1939.	48.	—	50.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—It is gratifying to record that there were no deaths either from Puerperal Sepsis or from other puerperal diseases during the year under review. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales for the year 1939 was 2.82 per thousand total births.

GENERAL DEATH RATE.—The crude death rate per thousand of the estimated population was 10.1 and the adjusted death rate 11.0. This, while slightly higher than for the two previous years, is well below the rate for the country as a whole; the death rate for England and Wales from all causes was 12.1 for 1939 as against 11.6 for the previous year.

Year.	Total Deaths.	Crude Death Rate.	Administrative County	England and Wales.
1935.	280.	10.0.	12.62.	11.7.
1936.	319.	11.0.	12.85.	12.1.
1937.	304.	9.9.	13.29.	12.4.
1938.	294.	9.1.	12.29.	11.6.
1939.	339.	10.1.	—	12.1.

Table III.—CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1939.

			Males	Females
Measles	...	...	—	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	2	1
Diphtheria	...	...	2	4
Influenza	...	...	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	1	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	8	5
do. (non-respiratory)	„	...	5	—
General Paralysis of Insane	...	...	1	—
Cancer	...	...	22	23
Diabetes	...	...	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	13	12
Heart Disease	...	...	41	48
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	14	9
Bronchitis	...	...	6	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	10	9
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	—	3
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	4	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2	—
Appendicitis	...	...	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	—
Other Liver diseases	...	...	—	3
Other digestive diseases	...	...	3	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	3	4
Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	10	5
Senility	...	...	5	8
Suicide	...	...	1	—
Other violence	...	...	9	6
Other defined causes	...	...	14	10
Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	...	...	1	—
All causes		Total	180	159

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—There has been no change in the arrangements since the last annual report. The number of examinations carried out during 1939 on behalf of the Council was 248, made up as follows :—

SWABS :—

Diphtheria	117.
Haemolytic Streptococci	6.

MILK :—

Biological	68.
Bacteriological	57.

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—For the removal of cases of infectious disease, the motor ambulances belonging to the Salford Corporaion and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board are available. For non-infectious cases, accident cases and maternity patients, arrangements have existed with the Corporations of Stretford and Eccles for the use of their motor ambulances; since the 1st of April, 1940, however, the Ambulance Service is incorporated with the Stretford and Urmston Joint Fire Brigade. Ambulance calls have trebled in number since Park Hospital was taken over by the military authorities as the hospital ambulances are no longer available.

(c) **MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.**

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.—There are normally twelve resident doctors in the district, and in addition others residing in neighbouring districts practise in the area. Five of these doctors were at the end of 1939 serving with H.M. Forces, but in most cases their work was being done by locum-tenens.

GENERAL NURSING.—These arrangements are as detailed in the last report.

MIDWIVES.—Prior to September 1939, three midwives were employed by the Lancashire County Council to attend confinements in the Urmston Urban District and to reside within the district; owing to the increase in the work consequent upon the closure of Park Hospital for maternity cases, the number of midwives was increased to four within a few weeks of the outbreak of war.

HEALTH VISITORS.—The services of the Health Visitors, employed by the Lancashire County Council, are available in the district, in addition to visiting nurses under the Tuberculosis Scheme.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**

WELFARE CENTRES.—There are three Welfare Centres for mothers and babies in the district and these are under the control of the Lancashire County Council. These are held as follows :—

Davyhulme.	—Mondays	.....	2-0—4-0 p.m.
Flixton.	—Tuesdays	.....	2-0—4-0 p.m.
Urmston.	—Wednesdays	.....	2-0—4-0 p.m.

The Davyhulme and Urmston Centres are held at “ The Moorlands,” Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, and the Flixton Centre at the Alker Hall, Flixton Road.

The number of attendances at these centres was as follows :—

1936	.....	10,446.
1937	.....	10,762.
1938	.....	12,671.
1939	.....	12,830.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.—These are held as under.

- (1) Infant Welfare Centre, Green Lane, Patricroft :
Fridays : 9-30—12 noon.
2-0 — 4-0 p.m.

- (2) “ The Moorlands,” Cornhill Road, Davyhulme.

The second and fourth Fridays in the month from 2—4 p.m. (This Clinic was opened in October 1939, in place of the Ante-Natal Clinic formerly held at Park Hospital).

SCHOOL CLINIC ARRANGEMENTS.—The School Clinic is situated at “ The Moorlands,” Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, and is provided by the Lancashire County Council.

Minor ailments are seen on Mondays from 9-30 a.m. to noon, and on Thursdays at 1-30 p.m. for re-dressings.

Dental treatment is given by appointment on two and a half days per week.

Ophthalmic cases are seen at fortnightly clinics by appointment, by a specialist appointed by the County Council.

Orthopaedic cases are seen by a Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon by appointment at Longfield Lodge, Cadishead, where remedial exercise classes are held weekly also.

Special arrangements exist between the Lancashire County Council and Ancoats Hospital and the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital for the treatment of certain defects of the nose, throat, ear and eye.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—The Lancashire County Council Dispensary is situated at No. 28, Gilda Brook Road, Eccles. Patients are seen on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2-30 p.m. and on Fridays at 9-30 a.m. New patients require a note from their Medical Attendant.

(e) **HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.**—

(1) **GENERAL HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**—The district has been well served in the matter of hospital accommodation in the past, but the arrangements have been considerably altered on account of the war. The Park Hospital, Davyhulme, with 500 beds and under the control of the Public Health Department of the Lancashire County Council, served this and other districts until the outbreak of war, when it was taken over by the military authorities.

This has meant that patients have had to be sent to Eccles and Patricroft Hospital, Hope Hospital and voluntary hospitals in Manchester and Salford, for treatment they formerly were able to obtain in their own district. This has greatly increased the call upon the Authority's Ambulance Service.

Early in 1940 the Lancashire County Council opened a new hospital, "Abbotsfield," Flixton Road, with some 50 beds for the treatment of urgent surgical and medical cases, in place of Park Hospital. This has since been equipped with an X-Ray Department.

(2) **ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**—By an Agreement dated 9th September, 1930, between the Council and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, provision is made for the reception at the Board's Hospital of smallpox patients from this district. Two beds are available for which an annual retaining fee is paid.

Under the Emergency Hospital Arrangements, the Board's hospital at Ainsworth was taken over for several months for the treatment of minor infectious cases occurring in Reception Areas under the Evacuation Scheme, and during that period, arrangements were made for cases of smallpox to be dealt with at Astley. Later, however, the Ainsworth Hospital was restored to its original function.

For the treatment of tuberculosis the sanatoria of the Lancashire Council Council are available.

For other infectious diseases a new agreement was made in May, 1938, with the Salford Corporation for the accommodation of patients at the Ladywell Sanatorium, in conjunction with neighbouring authorities, under the County Council Scheme.

On the outbreak of war, the Ladywell Sanatorium on account of its vulnerable position was closed and arrangements were made for children suffering from infectious diseases to be accommodated at the Stockport Isolation Hospital and for adult patients to be accommodated at the Monsall Fever Hospital. The Ladywell Sanatorium, however, was re-opened on the 4th March, 1940.

(3) **MATERNITY HOSPITALS.**—On the outbreak of war the Park Hospital, Davyhulme, was no longer able to accommodate maternity patients, owing to its transfer to the military authorities. This threw much additional work on the Urmston Cottage Hospital, which gave up all its available accommodation to maternity cases. Arrangements were made under the Lancashire County Council Maternity Scheme for necessitous cases needing hospital treatment to be accommodated at this hospital, and for cases of urgency, or where difficulty was anticipated in the confinement, to be accommodated at Hope Hospital.

There are two private nursing homes registered by the County Council and regularly inspected.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, RIVERS AND STREAMS.—An examination, both bacteriological and chemical, was made on water from an artesian well at the request of the R.A.F. The report was satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.—The number of pail closets remains at 35 and dry ash pits at 5.

There were at the end of 1939 :—

11,400 fresh water closets.

11,405 movable ashbins.

11,243 houses on the water carriage system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The usual report on this is omitted in accordance with the Ministry's requirements.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.—The number of inspections made during the year was 4,586. The number of nuisances or defects discovered was 154 of which number 121 were abated. Notices were served in 162 cases (138 informal and 24 statutory). No legal proceedings were taken.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Eleven houses were found to be infested. Disinfestation was carried out in each case with Zaldecide or Fumoid Blocks.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

New houses erected during the year numbered 444; of these 6 were erected by the Council and 438 by other bodies or persons. Other details concerning houses are omitted in accordance with the Ministry's circular of July 1940.

**SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD.**

MILK SUPPLY.—

(a). Licences.—The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938 have been issued to dealers :—

Tuberculin Tested milk	(1) Bottling	Nil
	(2) Distribution	5
Accredited milk	(1) Bottling	1
	(2) Distribution	2
Pasteurised milk	(1) Plants	Nil
	(2) Retail distributors	2

(b). Dairies, Milk Shops, etc.

The Inspections of these premises during the year numbered 236. There are in the district 34 Dairy-men or Milk Purveyors (other than cowkeepers).

(c). Farms.

There are 16 Dairy Forms and about 250 cows in the district. Inspections numbered 154 during the year.

(d). Samples.

(1). Tuberculous milk.

Samples submitted for biological tests68

Results :—Positive 13

Negative 55

(2). Samples submitted for bacteriological tests.....57

Results :— Satisfactory 34

Unsatisfactory 23

Appropriate action was taken in all unsatisfactory cases.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—There is nothing calling for special comment in the year under review.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—The number of notifications of infectious diseases (excluding tuberculosis) was 214 in 1939 compared with 199 in the previous year. If from these figures are subtracted notifications received from Park Hospital (or the Military Hospital, Davyhulme, between September and December 1939) relating to persons normally resident outside the district, the notifications of residents were 118 in 1939, against 132 in 1938. It should, however, be pointed out, that in the figures 118 for 1939 are included a number of notifications of measles and whooping-cough. These diseases had been made notifiable under the Ministry of Health Regulations in October 1939; on the other hand the figure 132 for 1938 includes a number of notifications of chicken-pox which was made notifiable for a period of three months in 1938 in the Urmston District. If the notifications of these three diseases are excluded the comparative figures of the remaining diseases are 110 in 1939 against 111 in 1938.

SCARLET FEVER, has again been less prevalent during the year under review, the figures being 36 notifications in 1939, 50 in 1938 and 82 in 1937.

DIPHTHERIA on the other hand showed an increase, the figures being 74 in 1939, 45 in 1938, and 25 during 1937. ...It is, however, only right to point out that the 74 cases in 1939, 52 were notified from either Park Hospital or the Military Hospital in regard to patients normally resident outside the district. If this type of case is excluded from the figures, the cases occurring among residents are 28 in 1939, 25 in 1938 and 18 in 1937.

Only two cases occurred during the year among the 2,500 children who had been previously immunised under this and other Authorities' schemes; one of these was immunised under the Council's scheme a year previous to the attack, and the other

Table IV.—NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
DURING 1939.

(Excluding Tuberculosis)

Disease	Notified by General Practi- tioner (a)	Notified from Park Hospital		Notified from Military Hospital Davyhulme
		Ordinarily resident in Urmston (b)	Ordinarily resident outside Urmston (c)	
Diphtheria	23	5	6	46
Scarlet Fever	35	—	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	1	1	1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	1	—	1	—
Malaria	—	—	1	2
Erysipelas.....	6	1	1	—
Peuerpral Pyrexia....	1	1	9	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	24	9	27	—
Measles	6	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	2	—	—	—
	101	17	46	50
Total - 118		Total - 96		

TABLE V—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939.

“Notifiable” Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													HOSPITAL.	
	Total cases at all ages.	AGE PERIODS—YEARS.										65 and over	Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
		under 1	1- 2	2- 3	3- 4	4- 5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 20	20- 35	35- 45				
	(a)												(b)	(c)	(d)
Scarlet Fever...	35		2	1	3	20	5	1	1	2			1	21	1
Diphtheria ...	34	2	4	1		14	2	3	6	1		1	3	33	3
Enteric Fever	2						1		1					2	
Measles ...	6	1	3	1		1									
Whooping Cough	2	1		1											
Pneumonia (Ac. Prim)... (Ac. Infl)...	60	3	2			3	1	1	16	12	15	4			
Puerperal Pyrexia	11							1	6	4					
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	1	2									1			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	1													
Erysipelas ...	9								4	2	3			4	
Malaria (Contracted in this country.)	1								1					1	
Totals	165	7	13	3	4	38	9	6	35	21	18	6	4	61	4

N. B.—It should be noted that cases occurring among non-civilians are not included in the above table but these are shown in Table 4.

privately ; neither case was fatal. Sixteen cases occurred among the other 2,500 children who had not been immunised, and it is to be regretted that no fewer than five of these died of the disease, in most cases within a few days of the onset, showing that the disease was present in its worst form.

I feel convinced that immunisation saved the district from a serious epidemic in September 1939.

PNEUMONIA.—The acute forms of penumonia were more prevalent in 1939 (33 cases against 18).

SUPPLY OF ANTITOXIN.—Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Council and is available at local chemists, and also at the Urmston Police Station by day or night at times when chemists' supplies are not available.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—The scheme inaugurated in 1937 by the Council and described in the Report for that year, and also in last year's Report, was in operation throughtout 1939.

The scheme provides for the injection of three doses of toxoid-antitoxin floccules at intervals of a fortnight by general medical practitioners working on a rota, at sessions at the School Clinic. Twelve doctors have taken turns on the rota and arrangements have worked smoothly and owe much to the co-operation of the local members of the medical profession.

The Council provides the toxoid-antitoxin material, pays the fees of the medical practitioners and provides the necessary clerical assistance ; the Lancashire County Council allows the use of the School Clinic and provides the nursing assistance at the actual sessions.

Number of Children Immunised :—

Year	School Children.	Children under School Age.	Total
1937	397	55	452
1938	1132	251	1383
1939	151	116	267
1940	64	69	133
Total	1744	491	2235

SCHICK TESTS.—During the year 36 post-Schick Tests were performed.

DISINFECTION.—The number of houses disinfected after the occurrence of infectious disease was 115 during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Notifications of Tuberculosis and deaths from this are shown in Table 6. The ratio of non-notifiable Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths was 1 to 5.

Table VI.—TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—								
1—			4				2	
5—			3	2				
10—			1					
15—		1	1					
20—	4	3	1	3	3	2		
25—	4	4		2	2	1		
35—	6	4	1	1	1	1	1	
45—	1	2			1	1	1	
55—								
65 & upwards								
Totals	18	14	11	9	7	4	4	
	32		20		11		4	

In conclusion I desire to record my appreciation of the work of the staff of the Public Health Department during a year that in its later months was an exceptionally trying one, owing to the demands of Civil Defence work and to the rapid changes necessitated in the Public Health Services consequent upon the

exigencies of war. Members of the staff have responded willingly to all demands made upon them. In spite of the extra work occasioned by salvage, by administration of the A.R.P. casualties services, personnel and stores, and by co-operation with many branches of the Civil Defence Organisation, the essential public health work of the Department has been maintained with satisfactory results so far as the health of the district is concerned.

A. V. STOCKS,
Medical Officer of Health.

